

REMARKS

This response is being filed within the shortened statutory period for filing a response to the outstanding Office Action.

Therefore, an extension of time is not required.

In item 2 on page 2 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejects Claims 21, 25, and 27-37 for allegedly being indefinite. The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because these claims are believed to be sufficiently clear to someone with ordinary skill in the art.

In item 5 on page 3 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner provisionally rejects Claims 1-7, 10-18, 21, 23-25, and 27-37 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double-patenting. The provisional obviousness-type double-patenting rejection in the outstanding Office Action is respectfully traversed; and the Applicants will decide at a future time whether or not to file a terminal disclaimer to overcome this rejection.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejects Claims 1-7, 10-18, 21, 23-25, and 27-37 for allegedly being anticipated by or obvious over various cited documents. The Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections because the cited documents do not teach or suggest the claimed invention.

In view of the foregoing, favorable reconsideration of the amended application is respectfully requested. It is submitted that the claims of record are in condition for allowance. Allowance of the claims at an early date is solicited.

The Applicants reserve the right to seek protection for any unclaimed subject matter either subsequently in the prosecution of

the present case or in a divisional or continuation application.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 12-0415. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, then the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 C.F.R § 1.136(a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed; and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account No. 12-0415.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

January 28, 2005
(Date of Deposit)

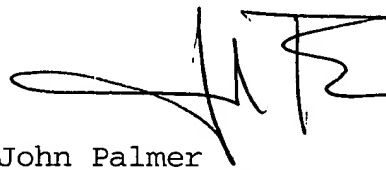
JOHN PALMER

(Name of Applicant, Assignee
or Registered Representative)

(Signature)

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Respectfully submitted,



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